

Analog installation

Two graphic design students create social awareness campaign in Student Union.



A5

Wilson stands out

On a team with many new faces, Douglas Wilson continues to set himself apart.



A11

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A large photograph of a woman in a red t-shirt with the letters 'JZO' on it. She is in a dynamic pose, with her arms outstretched and one leg raised. The background is a wall with horizontal wooden slats, colored red and blue.

Spotlight shines on Black History Month

Black Student Alliance sponsors multiple cultural events throughout February

SEE **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** ON A6

Collegian photo by **FRANKIE HERRERA**

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Students' Association passes two recommendations

J. MICHAEL BERTSCH
News & Lifestyles Editor

At the Feb. 10 meeting of the Students' Association, the Senate debated the new names for the Architecture, Mathematics and Engineering building and the Wellness Center, and officially received the first nomination for 2020-21 SA President.

Students' Association voted to debate two new resolutions, 19-09-R and 19-11-R. Both resolutions focused on the naming of buildings on campus.

Resolution 19-09-R expressed SA's support for naming the Wellness Center in honor of former university president Peggy Gordon Miller.

"She truly was a pres-

ident of the people," said Communications Chair Nick Lorang. "She was very much a student-centered president, and I think it's fitting that such a student-centered place would be named after her."

Resolution 19-11-R was regarding the Senate's support for naming the Architecture, Mathematics and Engineering building in honor of former university president David L. Chicoine.

"All engineering students wouldn't be able to get the education we have now without President Chicoine," said College of Engineering Senator Megan Fiala. "We use the labs that we have continually starting freshman year. Our department would not

be as successful or amazing as it is without his work."

The Students' Association passed both resolutions unanimously.

Later in the meeting, Government Affairs Chair Hattie Seten and Senator-At-Large Reis Bruley were nominated on the same ticket for president and vice president.

The Senators also heard reports from three student organizations: Little International, Rodeo Club and the International Relations Council.

Little International, a two-day agricultural exposition organized by students at SDSU, will take place March 27-28.

"We're having a two day, student-run FFA contest and a livestock

show this year," Little International Assistant Treasurer Brandon Berg said. "We're expecting 1,500 to 2,000 high school students to participate in the FFA competitions."

Little International will also host its first poultry judging competition and will have roughly 150 SDSU students showing animals this year.

The Senate also heard from the Rodeo Club's acting president, Reed Arneson, and treasurer Colton Carlson.

The Rodeo Club is made up of 50 students who either actively compete in rodeos around the region or individuals who just love the sport.

The club's biggest event of the year is the Jackrabbit

Stampede, a two-day rodeo event that will be held April 5-6 at the Swiftel Center.

"We have 10 teams from the region come, which ends up being around 300 competitors," said Carlson. "Last year we had about 3,500 people come and watch our competition."

For the competition, the club offers a discount on tickets to incentivize students to come to the event.

"We always like to allocate money to make it cheaper for students," said Carlson. "Last year we had 520 students who used the discount to come watch."

The Jackrabbit Stampede has been nominated for "Rodeo of the Year" in past years.

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CRIME LOG

02.2.2020

- 4:02 a.m. Suspicious persons/vehicle @ Spencer Hall.
- 9:18 p.m. Intentional damage to property (\$400 or less) @ Caldwell Hall.

02.3.2020

- 12:06 a.m. Underage purchase or possession of alcoholic beverages, lane driving required @ 2100 U.S. Highway 14 Bypass.
- 3:14 p.m. Littering prohibited, open container in public @ Hyde Hall.

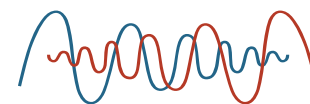
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Senior design team looks towards future with human-carrying drone

SAMMI SCHRAC
News Editor

Imagine being stuck in traffic, late to the big presentation you've been working on for months. Or trying to eat breakfast in the car when your \$4 coffee spills everywhere. It happens all the time; it's unavoidable.

But maybe not for long.

A seven-member team of senior mechanical engineering and business students is designing a human-carrying drone for an air taxi system as their senior design project. Within the next two weeks, they will have clearance to fly their prototype drone, named the Hummingbird, proving that they are able to build something that can stay in the air.

In November 2019, the team received an \$80,000 grant from NASA through the NASA University Student Research Challenge. This is the largest grant awarded to a senior design project within South Dakota State University's Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering, according to one of the project advisers Todd Letcher.

"We think this has

the ability to be the new key mode of transportation," Isaac Smithee, the team's leader and senior mechanical engineering student, said.

The Hummingbird prototype was built to a seventh of the scale of the final full-size drone named Albatross. The drones are battery powered and will be operated by remote control to start with before becoming autonomous.

The ultimate goal will be for the passenger to press a button and be on their way, completely autonomous.

"Making a drone that can carry a person is hard to do initial testing on," Smithee said on why the Hummingbird is necessary.

The next big step is receiving the money from NASA, which should be coming soon due to a successful crowdsourcing campaign. The team received half of the money upfront, but was required to raise at least \$2,000 before they receive the other half of the grant.

The most expensive purchases they will make will be the motors, which cost roughly \$500 each.

Once the team receives the money and orders the



Collegian photo by **LEVI OLSON**

Engineering student Nick Runge works on drone for the design project at South Dakota State University.

parts, the challenge will be where to build the full-size drone. Set to be 12 feet wide, consist of eight propellers and weigh 500 pounds including the passenger, it will need to be built in a large room.

Despite the large dimensions of the Albatross, "one of the requirements is that it must be easy to transport," said project adviser Marco Ciarica.

They are planning on the drone being able to fit in the back of a pickup.

The official deadline for the project is Nov. 2020, but the team hopes to be done by the end of the semester in May.

Whether or not that will happen will depend largely on if parts are available and shipping speed.

"I'm pretty excited, I think they're going to do it [finish by May]," Letcher said.

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This is a grant funded position. As with all positions, continuation is contingent upon funding.

Serious inquiries only. Interested candidates are asked to email their resume and letter of interest to domestic@brookings.

As university expands, non-critical upgrades are being delayed

JACOB BOYKO
Reporter

The lack of noticeable repairs for the older buildings on campus has ignited questions from students and faculty members about South Dakota State's spending priorities as the university battles to catch up.

Sami Wiseman, a freshman in Pierson Hall, enjoys her residence hall but recognizes several minor issues with the 55-year-old building.

"We don't have carpet, my air conditioning doesn't work and when I have the heat on I can't control the temperature, so it gets too warm and I have to open a window," Wiseman said. "It's a little old fashioned, but overall (it) isn't that bad."

Another Pierson resident, Morgan Wray, also acknowledged issues present in the hall.

"It's dirty," Wray said. "Two of the bathroom stalls don't lock. The hot water doesn't work — it's lukewarm at best most of the time, and I think bugs get in through the ceiling tiles because [the bugs] weren't there earlier this semester."

The concerns voiced by these Pierson residents are shared across campus by other students and faculty who live, learn and work in increasingly old fashioned environments.

Unfortunately, there isn't much that can be done about many of the non-critical issues present in the buildings.



Collegian photo by **FRANKIE HERRERA**

Lincoln Hall is being renovated to make it more usable, currently the building is without restrooms.

According to Jonathan Meendering, a project architect from the Facilities and Services department, the university is held back from initiating projects because of a limited maintenance and repair budget, and therefore must carefully weigh the priorities of projects and expedite or postpone them accordingly.

SDSU has anywhere between \$10 million to \$12 million to spend on the maintenance of academic-related buildings and structures each year. The South Dakota Board of Regents and the state grants the university a Higher Education Facility Fund.

In 2019, the Higher Education Facility Fund was calculated by factoring the total amount of academic space on campus down to the square foot, and the SDBOR determined 2% of the estimated total replacement cost.

Additionally, the university receives state general funds, which vary in amount every year. All

these funds are only to be used for maintenance and repair of academic buildings. Residence halls, while not classified as academic buildings and therefore unaffected by the fund, are required to spend 3% of their operating budget on maintenance and repairs, most of it coming from meal plans and other student expenses.

In order to ensure strategic, forward-thinking spending, a five-year plan is produced each year to determine how the maintenance funds will be used. According to Meendering, the university has nearly \$200 million worth of backlogged projects, and because of new projects replacing completed ones, the figure isn't likely to get any smaller.

"It's a drop in the bucket," Meendering said. "Trying to catch up is a never-ending battle."

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**BY
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Collegian photo by **HOLLIE LEGGETT**

Sophomore psychology major Riley Caldwell and sophomore animal science major Addisyn Brehmer write happy stories on the go.analog poster in the Student Union.

go.analog

KENDAL SCHREIER
Reporter

When you publish to Facebook, you post on a “wall.” That wall is now a reality.

From Feb. 10-14, instead of posting to social media, students can post actual printed photographs or words to a poster in the Student Union. This is part of a project called “go.analog” created by graphic design majors Rachel Harmon and Lucas Latza to help stu-

dents stay off their phones.

“We want to trace any technology these days into something analog,” Latza said.

The installation, located on the Volstorff Ballroom window, has a prompt that reads: “Share a positive experience with the rest of campus.” Harmon and Latza encourage students to post pictures of moments they felt happy.

By the time they both started the project, Latza and Harmon

had already quit social media due to the negative impact of phone usage on their lives. Both students had wasted too much time on their devices. In Latza’s case, he admits he spent too much time on Twitch, a video live streaming website.

Harmon and Latza hope to keep people aware of the problem. This is aimed toward a multitude of audiences and is meant to make people consider spending less time on their phones.

“We hope that we get some sort of reaction,” Latza said. “This is our test run.”

For Harmon and Latza, it was hard to quit, especially for

a large amount of time, but the switch has opened both of them to new experiences. According to them, even walking to class has become more meaningful and genuine.

Apart from social media, several day-to-day activities can be done by hand.

“Instead of taking notes on your computer, try writing, feeling paper, an actual book,” Harmon suggests.

Harmon and Latza want to ease people into “go.analog.” There is a big resistance to the idea that people may have an attachment to technology.

As long as people are looking at their poster, Harmon

and Latza feel that they are making an impact. Already, positive responses have been reported.

As part of the “go.analog” project, both students had a photoshoot to showcase some memories. In this case, they featured a snowball fight and asked people in Grove Hall classes to participate. The students who participated were surprised by the impact, as it turned out to be a good way to get in touch with people.

“This project is in our hearts,” Harmon said. “I hope this becomes a real thing.”

From A1

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month celebrated on campus with BSA sponsored events

GRACIE TERRALL
Copy Editor

The month of February brings culture, pride and education in the form of Black History Month. At South Dakota State University, organizations like the Black Student Alliance (BSA) arrange programs throughout the month to promote black culture and educate others on black history.

To kick off the month, the BSA held a step show Saturday, Feb. 1. Step, which originated in black greek fraternities, is a combination of singing, marching and clapping.

Chief Diversity Officer Kas Williams says that stepping is an African tradition.

"We tell our stories through music," Williams said.

Within greek organizations, every group has an individual step called the Founder's Step.

"It tells the story of how that organization came about," Williams said.

The step show featured four groups: Kappa Alpha Psi, Phi Beta Sigma, Delta Sigma Theta and Omega Psi Phi.

Delta Sigma Theta

was the only female sorority that performed.

Akeah Aschmeller, BSA president, hopes the Step Show and other programs put on during Black History Month educate people on black history and highlight their culture so people can appreciate it.

"I think education is the biggest thing," Aschmeller said. "I think a lot of people have the misconception that black people are just here for attention... By going to these events, it's initiating those conversations, those hard topics you might not want to have."

For those who missed the Step Show, fear not; there are plenty of other events coming up this month.

BSA is hosting a game night at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12 in Jack's Place.

Naomi Wynn, BSA secretary, believes events like these prompt conversation rather than arguments.

"Instead of initiating a fight, just listen to them and build a conversation around that," Wynn said.

One way to get those conversations started is around a game of Apples to Apples.

From 5-7 p.m.

Upcoming Events

BSA Game Night

Wednesday, Feb. 12 7 p.m. at Jack's Place

Community Perform & Learn

Thursday, Feb. 13 5 p.m. at Brookings Public Library

Soul Food Luncheon

Friday, Feb. 14 11 a.m. at the Multicultural Center

#VotingWhileBlack

Wednesday, Feb. 26 2 p.m. at Lewis and Clark Room

Movie: Black and Blue

Friday, Feb. 28 7 p.m. at Jack's Place

Thursday, Feb. 13, Brookings Public Library is hosting a Black History night, complete with guest speakers from SDSU's Multicultural Center and BSA. There will be soul food that guests can sample and a variety of books by black authors and about black culture.

The BSA will host a soul food meal at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 14 in the Multicultural Center for an authentic southern meal.

The Soul Food Luncheon is a way to try different foods and learn more about black culture.

"This is our culture, this is our food," Wynn said.

BSA will also be hosting "#VotingWhileBlack," where a Minnesota politician will be speaking on running for public office and the power of voting at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, in the Lewis and Clark Room. The purpose of the event is to educate people on their resources for voting, learn about who is representing them and find out how best to talk with them.

"It's really important for people to go out and vote," Aschmeller said. "While you're black, you need to know your rights."

Friday, Feb. 28 will mark the end of the BSA's Black History Month events. To wrap up the month, BSA will be showing the movie "Black and Blue" at 7 p.m. in the basement of the Union. "Black and Blue" highlights the challenges of a black female in the police force who struggles after she witness a murder by corrupt officers. Tanea Rhodes, a freshman member of BSA, commented on the impact this movie should have on students.

"That movie really brings it all," Rhodes said.

The overall goal of the BSA's efforts during Black History Month is to shed light on black culture in hope that it will start conversations with people about what it really means to be black and how they are affected by society's prejudices.

"In a demographic area such as South Dakota, with there not being as many minorities, I think it's important that we're showcasing [Black History Month] so people can get educated," Aschmeller said.





Collegian photos by **FRANKIE HERRERA**
Omega Psi Phi Chapter from Howard University and Phi Beta Sigma from West Chester University performing dances in the Step Show on Friday, Jan. 31 in the Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center.

Oscars highlight diversity, "Parasite" sweeps major awards

MEGAN BERTSCH
Reporter

As many movie-buffs and general enjoyers of entertainment know, the 92nd Academy Awards was hosted Sunday, Feb. 9. It was an eventful evening of performances, diversity, no particular host and some extremely wealthy people.

If that's not your thing, or you're a student drowning in work with better stuff to do, here's what went down.

Let's start with the red carpet fashion.

Some standouts were Billy Porter, donning a gold dress designed by Giles Deacon, inspired

by royalty and made with real gold.

Another favorite was Janelle Monae in a silver, hooded gown made of 168,000 crystals.

The overarching theme of the Oscars seemed to be record-breaking progress in diversity.

The Academy did face backlash for not including any female directors, however, this can still be seen as a standout night for diverse cinema.

"Hair Love" is a story about an African American family and the cultural significance of natural hair through a child's eyes. The short film went from a small kick-

starter to an Oscar winner. Producers Mathew A. Cherry and Karen Rupert Toliver dedicated the award to inclusivity.

"We have a firm belief that representation matters deeply," Toliver said.

This message was echoed as Idina Menzel sang "Into the Unknown" from "Frozen 2" along with singers of 10 different languages. Each of the nominated musical themes were conducted by Eimear Noone, the Oscars' first female conductor ever.

The stand-out moment of the night was the South Korean film, "Parasite."

"Parasite" swept four major categories,

including best picture, the first non-English film to ever be nominated.

"I feel like a very opportune moment in history is happening right now," said co-producer, Kwak Sin Ae through interpreter Sharon Choi.

This appeared to be true as "Parasite" director Bong Joon Ho spoke about breaking barriers.

"Once you overcome the 1-inch-tall barriers of subtitles, you will be introduced to so many more amazing films," Bong said at the 2019 Golden Globes.

P A R A S I T E



Collegian graphic by **HOLLIE LEGGETT**

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EDITORIAL

Issue: Unpaid internships are medieval

Apprenticeships are one of the longest practiced methods of education in human history. During the Middle Ages, European apprenticeships usually entailed a young student committing a certain amount of work to a master. In return, the master fed and housed the student while teaching him the methods of his trade. By modern standards, these arrangements were certainly brutal, but in the Middle Ages, an apprenticeship offered immediate sustainment and the possibility of future success as an artisan.

The apprenticeship has evolved in Europe. In Scotland, the “Modern Apprenticeship” program allows for the trainees to work a salary job with academic support, earning up to a master’s degree without ever leaving the workforce. In England, apprentices are at least entitled to a minimum wage. Meanwhile, in America, the white-collar sector has rebranded the ancient practice with an exploitative twist.

Enter: the unpaid internship.

Unpaid internships are often

summer programs requiring students to relocate and work for free. Some of these internships take place in cities with a high cost of living. According to CNBC, living in Los Angeles for a summer would cost roughly \$9,500 — that’s not including the opportunity cost for interns to forgo working that summer. Working 12 weeks for 40 hours each, even at federal minimum wage, amounts to \$3,480. These totals combined amount to interns sacrificing \$12,980 to work for a company in their desired industry. At least the medieval master let the poor kid sleep in the workshop.

Unpaid internships revolve around the idea that the work further educates the intern, but a search for unpaid internships in the Midwest showed that many companies required applicants to already possess the skills for the job. Such demands included: outstanding writing skills, proficiency with Adobe Creative Suite and some even required 1-2 years of prior relevant experience. The casting calls suggest that compa-

nies aren’t interested in training future industry employees; they’re interested in scoring free labor off of students desperate to make themselves employable after graduation.

Unfortunately, the connection between unpaid internships and post-graduation employment is a lie. According to Forbes, 60% of paid internships lead to job offers, while only 37% of unpaid internships yield job offers. Meanwhile, 36% of graduates who did not work an internship received job offers.

The executive director of the National Association of Colleges and Employers, Marilyn Mackes, chalks up the discrepancy to companies delegating menial tasks to unpaid interns, while paid interns are usually heavily involved with relevant work. The common belief that internships lead to employment creates a coercive environment in which students believe they must attain an internship. Graduation requirements and hiring practices reinforce the belief. This leads students to

accept exploitative terms, working for free in hopes of a later payout.

We at The Collegian, believe that unpaid internships are unethical, and their perceived necessity is the coercive creation of labor-hungry industries operating under the guise of benefactors. As education institutions such as SDSU and the University of Wisconsin introduce internships as graduation requirements, we suspect that unpaid internships will pose an equity issue, alienating lower-class students who cannot afford to work for free.

Perhaps one should consider the Oxford English Dictionary’s definition of the word: “Intern, v. (originally) to oblige (a person) to reside within prescribed limits; (now usually) to detain (a person) without trial in an internment camp.”

The Collegian Editorial Board meets weekly and agrees on the issue of the editorial. The editorial represents the opinion of The Collegian.

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

					4			1
				8		2	4	
		9		6				
6		3					9	
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9			4		7		2	5
4								

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Across

- 1 Riot spray
- 5 Lawn starter
- 9 Forum greeting
- 12 Pedestal topper
- 13 Traps
- 15 Obtain
- 16 Sunshine State city
- 18 Boiling blood
- 19 Before, once
- 20 Apple throwaway
- 21 Santa Anas, e.g.
- 23 Chickenfeed
- 26 Place for a pin
- 28 Warning device
- 29 Luxury car, familiarly
- 30 Grandfather clock part
- 34 Jai ____
- 35 Painting holder
- 37 The life of Riley
- 38 Wicked king and son of Zeus
- 40 Anesthetized
- 41 Baby buggy
- 42 Church official
- 43 Yam
- 47 Highlander dagger

- 48 Henry VIII’s sixth
- 49 Unit of energy
- 52 Bolivian export
- 53 Sobriquet
- 57 Ancient
- 58 Quick breads
- 59 Soprano’s song, maybe
- 60 Thickness
- 61 Hardy heroine
- 62 Trapper’s prize

Down

- 1 Acarid
- 2 Shevat follower
- 3 ____ slaw
- 4 Building annex
- 5 Tangle
- 6 Artist’s stand
- 7 Hesitant sounds
- 8 Sandra of “Gidget”
- 9 Winery process
- 10 Cape ____ Islands
- 11 Quebec seasons
- 13 Sand bar
- 14 “Folly” politician
- 17 Summits
- 22 Insinuation
- 23 Kind of soup
- 24 Sci. course

- 25 Fine-tune
- 26 Singer Falana
- 27 Astronaut ‘Shepard
- 29 Rodent
- 30 Mas’ mates
- 31 Stow, as cargo
- 32 Consumer
- 33 Mal de ____
- 35 Fizzless
- 36 Beef cut
- 39 Gladiatorial sites
- 40 Extreme
- 42 Noblemen
- 43 Proficiency
- 44 “Peter Pan” character, ____
- 45 Unlocks
- 46 Accounts
- 47 Train station
- 49 Emerald Isle
- 50 Provoke
- 51 Picnic pest
- 54 Loan figure, briefly
- 55 “Ulalume” poet
- 56 Pub fixture

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the Collegian
CROSSWORD

Valentine's Day brings stress to singles

KENDAL SCHREIER
Reporter

Valentine's Day is right around the corner, but I feel uneasy. I want to be optimistic, but it's hard. When the day comes, I feel as though I will be judged on how I spend my time. I want it to be special, not lonesome. I think this is something we can all relate to whether we have someone special on Valentine's Day or not.

The ultimate goal seems to be finding someone. If we are single at the time, we want to ask someone out or be asked out. However, I believe this is unnecessary pressure that we get stuck in our head. There is no need to rush to meet a "deadline" on Feb. 14 to find love. All things come in good time

and rushing a connection can only make things awkward and forced. It may sound canny, but it's best to enjoy the present regardless if you don't have a significant other. I think of this as a sort of energy, and it's important to put it toward self-love rather than relying on strangers. Instead of trying to impress someone in class or get their attention, it's best to put your energy into those who already love you. On Valentine's Day, call family and friends and appreciate all that they do for you. I am not saying don't go out with a special someone, but just make sure to appreciate the time you spend. Let it all be natural.

Having a significant other can also be stressful

on Valentine's Day. There is an expectation for couples to do something special. I think it's a great opportunity to do something sweet, but it's not good to stress about the occasion. It's better to value your time with that person rather than worrying about making everything perfect. The important thing is understanding what that person means to you. I think it's safe to go with your gut and trust that you know your significant other enough to enjoy your time.

Regardless if you have a date, remember to reach out to those closest to you. If all else fails, just remember that chocolate is super cheap the day after Valentine's.



Collegian graphic by **YEON JI EOM**

How to: Make realistic financial goals in college

MACKENZIE SMITH
AmeriCorps VISTA

After you set your realistic budget and know which strategies you can realistically use to reach your savings goals, you are on the right path. However, picking that

path can often be either one of the hardest or easiest parts depending on your situation. If your car is on its last leg, then it is a no-brainer to save up to repair or get a new one, but if you are the kind of person that spends more time picking out a show to watch on Netflix than

actually watching a show, knowing where you want to go with your finances can be tricky. Both groups can learn from the tips below.

You want variety

Short, medium and long-term as well as goals in different areas of your life. You should set

priorities of course, but reaching short-term goals on the path to larger ones can help you get that sense of accomplishment and avoid burnout. As great as being financially sound is, there is more to life than money, so having goals in other areas of your life as well will help keep your

life more balanced.

Make them SMART

I'm not going to go through yet another article or presentation on the benefits of SMART goals, as you've likely heard of them already or can find more information in a quick Google search. However, it is nice

to have a reminder to have specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound goals. This changes the "I want a new car" into "I want to be able to afford a 2008+ used car with under 150,000 miles on it by the time I graduate."

the Collegian

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Wilson emerges as next SDSU star

VICTORIA BERNDT
Sports Reporter

After last season, the South Dakota State men's basketball program lost four full-time starters and its head coach, leaving Jackrabbit Nation to wonder about the team's immediate future.

First-time head coach Eric Henderson returned only one player (Alex Arians) with more than seven starts from the 24-win 2018-19 squad and had to find a way to blend a wave of new personalities on a team with a tradition of competing at the top of the Summit League.

But through all the

changes and unknowns, the Jackrabbits have emerged as strong contenders to reclaim the Summit League crown, and the new face leading the charge is Douglas Wilson, an athletic forward with a flair for high-flying dunks and acrobatic finishes around the rim.

"The thing that really stands out as far as [Wilson's] leadership goes is his selflessness," said SDSU head coach Eric Henderson. "... When his teammates have success, he is the first one to celebrate them. He is so happy for his teammates — way happier than he is for himself — and

when one of your better players has that attitude and approach, it is very contagious."

Wilson, a Des Moines, Iowa, native, is in his first season wearing the yellow and blue after transferring from Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This season, the 6-foot-7 junior is averaging 17.9 points on better than 60% shooting from the field to go along with 6.4 rebounds per game. Each of those marks ranks in the top seven of the Summit League.

With five games to go before the 2020 Summit League Tournament, the Jackrabbits, tabbed to

finish fifth in the Summit League preseason poll, are 18-8 overall and tied with defending tournament champion North Dakota State atop the conference at 9-2, and Wilson is a big reason why.

"We expected him to have an immediate impact," Henderson said. "His athleticism was going to be very helpful for our team as well as his ability to guard. The thing that surprised me the most was how much we can count on him offensively."



Collegian photo by **BECCA YMKER**

Douglas Wilson (35) attempts a hook shot over Oral Roberts' Kevin Obanor Jan. 2, 2020 at Frost Arena.

SEE **WILSON** ON **A12**



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From A11

WILSON

Collegian photo by BECCA YMKER



Being a leader in many ways isn't a surprise. Wilson was a two-time National Junior College Athletic Association Division II All-American who earned National Player of the Year honors and led Kirkwood to an NJCAA National Championship last season.

"I tried not to focus on that when I was at Kirkwood," Wilson said of the individual awards. "When I found out I got those achievements I started to feel good because I knew my hard work was paying off."

After Wilson's first season at Kirkwood, he started hearing from other colleges, but SDSU was the first school to offer him a scholarship and that really stuck with Wilson.

"When I first came into town, it didn't really catch my eye because I didn't really see much," Wilson said. "I am kind of a laid-back guy, so that didn't matter to me anyway. The

first impressions were good. ... I went tailgating before a football game and just seeing how involved the community was really made me happy."

One thing that made Wilson's transition a little easier was the chance to continue working with his head coach from Kirkwood.

Bryan Petersen, who was added to Henderson's staff in June 2019, was the head coach at Kirkwood for six seasons, posting a 157-38 record and winning two national titles.

"I was excited not just because he was coming here, but also to see him move on from the community college level and into Division I," Wilson said. "Just to see him do that really made me happy, but I was even happier that he was coming here with me."

During Wilson's two seasons with Petersen at Kirkwood, the team had a record of 55-10.

"Doug and I have a really good relationship,"

Petersen said. "Obviously he is a very good player, but having a good relationship with a current player on your roster kind of helps out [as a coach] and it helped bridge the gap for me with some other players as well."

Last season at Kirkwood, Wilson averaged 21 points and nearly nine rebounds per game, and though the competition is greater at the Division I level, his production hasn't seen a dramatic dip. Out of the 25 games Wilson has appeared in this season, he has scored double figures in 23 of them.

"We always knew he was going to be a good player, but we didn't know how good," Petersen said. "... His offensive game has come around so far since we first saw him. ... He has always been a Division I caliber athlete, but he needed to become a more complete basketball player. How to become a D-I player, with just the demands, pressure and how you handle your day-to-day life — he was not ready for that out of high school, but he grew and kept on working towards it and obviously developed into one."

When Wilson steps on the court, most people see a level headed, focused competitor, but his coaches and teammates know there's another side to the stoic big man who has made a habit of bringing Frost Arena to its feet.

"He has a really good personality. He is pretty quiet by nature early on but once you get to know him, he is kind of a goofy kid," Petersen said. "I think he can relate to a

lot of different people and teammates but off the court, he is just a pretty chill dude."

But the standout basketball player Wilson has evolved into wasn't always a foregone conclusion.

Though Wilson has family members who are accomplished athletes in their own right, he didn't start taking basketball seriously until after his freshman season of high school. Soon after, he knew he wanted to pursue his basketball and academic career at the collegiate level.

"[Basketball] runs in the family," Wilson said. "I grew up watching my aunt play a lot and she was a big reason why I wanted to play."

Wilson's aunt, Jahzinga Tracey, played collegiately at Division II Indiana University of Pennsylvania. After a standout career where Tracey finished as the school leader in several statistical categories including points, rebounds and steals, she signed with a team in Germany's top professional women's league.

So whether it be internal pressures, those brought about by having an athletic family pedigree or high praise from his coaches, expectations for the goofy, high-flying Wilson are great and continue to grow with each game.

"The sky is the limit for him," Petersen said. "I think Doug can still get a lot better in a lot of different ways. ... I expect him to be a leader for our team, and I expect him to be, if not the best player, one of the best in our conference."